

Surah 68 Surah Qalam

THE PEN

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH QALAM AND SURAH MULK

Surah Mulk established the fact that Allaah is the only Benefactor and does not share this attribute with any other being. *Surah Qalam* proceeds to warn Rasulullaah ﷺ (and the Muslims) that the Kuffaar will be prepared to compromise their beliefs in order to get Muslims to do the same. They will be prepared to make concessions in their beliefs to entice Rasulullaah ﷺ and the Muslims to follow suit.

Their objective was to stop Rasulullaah ﷺ from making mention of their gods in a negative light. Allaah instructs Rasulullaah ﷺ not to give in to their proposals.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The *Surah* contains the following:

- * Reproach.
- * Consolation to Rasulullaah ﷺ.
- * The primary assertion of the *Surah* which is not to make any compromises in the belief that Allaah is the Only source of blessings.
- * A warning of punishment in this world.
- * Glad tidings.
- * Warning of punishment in the *Aakhirah*.

سُوْرَةُ الْقَلَمِ مَكِّيَّةٌ وَهِيَ اثْنَتَانِ خُمُسَاتِيَّةٌ فِيهَا الْوَعْدُ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate the Most Merciful

ن وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ ﴿١﴾

1. Noon. (Only Allaah knows the correct meaning of this letter.) By the oath of the pen (that recorded the destiny of creation in the "Lowhul Mahfoodh") and by (the oath of) what they (the angels who record the actions of people) write!

مَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَةٍ مِنْ رَبِّكَ بِمَجْنُونٍ ﴿٢﴾

2. By the grace of your Rabb, you (O Rasoolullaah ﷺ) are certainly not insane (as the Mushrikeen maliciously claim).

وَلَإِنَّ لَكَ لَأَجْرًا غَيْرَ مَمْنُونٍ ﴿٣﴾

3. Indeed, (because of your tireless efforts to propagate Islaam) you shall have a reward that never comes to an end (so do not grieve over the taunts of the Mushrikeen).

وَأَنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾

4. Verily, you are upon (have been blessed with) an exalted (flawless) character (which no insane person can possess).

فَسَتُبْصِرُ وَيُبْصِرُونَ ﴿٥﴾

5. Soon (when the Mushrikeen suffer the consequences of their Shirk) you shall see and they will also see...

بِأَيِّكُمْ الْمَقْتُولُ ﴿٦﴾

6. ...who of you is insane (they will then realise that they were insane not to accept your message).

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴿٧﴾

7. Indeed only your Rabb knows best who deviates (*goes astray*) **from His path and only He knows those who are rightly guided** (*and He will punish and reward people accordingly*).

فَلَا تُطِيعِ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ ﴿٨﴾

8. So do not obey those who reject (*Islaam*).

وَدُّوا لَوْ تُدْهِنُ فَيُدْهِنُونَ ﴿٩﴾

9. They (*those who reject Islaam*) **wish that you would compromise** (*the beliefs of your Deen, which would then conform with their beliefs*) **and then they would compromise** (*by accepting only some parts of Islaam*).

وَلَا تُطِيعُ كُلَّ حَلَّافٍ مِّمَّيْنٍ ﴿١٠﴾

10. (*In the following seven verses, Allaah refers specifically to Waleed bin Mughiera, who was one of Rasulullaah ﷺ's worst enemies. However, his description fits many Kuffaar.*) **Do not obey every person** (*Kaafir*) **who excessively swears on oath** (*on every occasion, whether a matter be true or false*), **who is disgraced...**

هَمَّا زَمَّشَاءٍ بَنِيٍّ ﴿١١﴾

11. ...who searches for the faults of others, who excels in carrying tales (*backbiting*)...

مَتَّاعٍ لِلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ أَتِيٍّ ﴿١٢﴾

12. ...who vehemently prevents good, who transgresses (*social and religious limits*), **is sinful...**

عُتِلَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ زَيْمٍ ﴿١٣﴾

13. ...*(who is)* harsh and whose parentage is uncertain as well.

أَنْ كَانَ ذَا مَالٍ وَبَنِينَ ﴿١٤﴾

14. All (*this he does*) **because he has wealth and sons** (*and therefore very proudly feels that he can do as he pleases*).

إِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا قَالَ أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ ﴿١٥﴾

15. When Our Aayaat are recited to him, he says, "These are fables (*fairy tales*) **of the old men** (*and are therefore beyond belief*)."

سَنَسِمُهُ عَلَى الْخُرُطُومِ ﴿١٦﴾

16. We shall soon brand him on his snout (on his nose in the Aakhirah because of his arrogance).

إِنَّا بَلَوْنَهُمْ كَمَا بَلَوْنَا أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ إِذْ أَقْسَمُوا لَيَصْرِمُنَّهَا مُصْبِحِينَ ﴿١٧﴾

17. Verily We have tested them (the Mushrikeen of Makkah whose wealth and children caused them to become arrogant) as We tested the people of the orchard (a few brothers who owned an orchard) when they swore that they will pluck the fruit (very early) in the morning (so that they would not have to give any of the produce to the poor who usually gathered there for a share)...

وَلَا يَسْتَنْوُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

18. ...but they did not say, "Insha Allaah" ("If Allaah will").

فَطَافَ عَلَيْهِمُ طَائِفٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَهُمْ نَائِمُونَ ﴿١٩﴾

19. So a visitation (a disaster) from your Rabb swept over their orchard as they slept.

فَاصْبَحَتْ كَالصَّرِيمِ ﴿٢٠﴾

20. So their orchard had become like a harvested crop by the morning (completely bare, without any trace of the produce whatsoever leftover).

فَتَنَادَوْا مُصْبِحِينَ ﴿٢١﴾

21. (Unaware of what had happened the previous night,) They (the brothers) called to each other in the morning...

أَنِ اعْدُوا عَلَيَّ حَرْثَكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ طَرِيقِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

22. ...(and said to each other) "Leave early for the plantation if you wish to pluck the harvest."

فَانْطَلَقُوا وَهُمْ يَتَخَفَتُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

23. As they walked (towards the orchard), they whispered to each other saying...

أَنْ لَا يَدْخُلَهَا الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكُمْ مَسْكِينٌ ﴿٢٤﴾

24. ... "No needy person should ever enter your presence today."

وَعَدُوا عَلَىٰ حَرْدٍ قَدِيرِينَ ﴿٢٥﴾

25. They proceeded with the thought that they had the power to withhold *(the produce from others)*.

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهَا قَالُوا إِنَّا لَضَالُّونَ ﴿٢٦﴾

26. When they *(arrived at the orchard and)* saw the orchard *(completely devastated,)* they exclaimed, “We must have lost the way! *(This cannot be our orchard!)*”

بَلْ نَحْنُ مُحْرَقُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾

27. *(When they realised that the orchard was indeed theirs, they said,)* “No *(we have not lost the way)*! We are the destitute *(needy)* ones *(who have lost everything)*.”

قَالَ وَسَطُهُمْ أَلَمَ أَقْبَلَ لَكُمْ لَوْلَا تُسَبِّحُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾

28. The good one among them said, “Did I not tell you *(not to stop giving charity to the poor)*. Why do you now not *(repent and)* glorify Allaah?”

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ ﴿٢٩﴾

29. They said, “Glorified is our Rabb! *(O Allaah forgive us because)* We *(admit that we)* were wrong doers indeed.”

فَاقْبَلْ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَلَامُؤْنَ ﴿٣٠﴾

30. *(Thereafter, like most people do during times of distress,)* They turned to each other pinning the blame on one another.

قَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ ﴿٣١﴾

31. *(When they finally realised that they were all to be blamed,)* They cried, “Woe be to us! We have *(all)* certainly transgressed!”

عَسَىٰ رَبُّنَا أَنْ يُبَدِّلَنَا خَيْرًا مِنْهَا إِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا رَاغِبُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

32. “We hope that our Rabb will replace for us something better than our orchard *(either in this world or in the Aakhirah)*. Indeed we have confidence in our Rabb *(that He will forgive us)*.”

كَذَلِكَ الْعَذَابُ وَالْعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةُ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

33. Such is the punishment (of Allaah in this world for the sinners). However, the punishment of the Aakhirah is much more severe. If only they (people in general) knew (this).

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَدَّتِ النَّعِيمُ ﴿٣٤﴾

34. Verily those with Taqwa shall have Jannaat of bliss close to their Rabb (in the Aakhirah).

أَفَجَعَلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ كَالْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾

35. Should We treat the obedient ones in the same manner as (we treat) the disobedient ones? (Certainly not!)

مَا لَكُمْ وَفَقْتُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾

36. What is the matter with you? How do you judge? (How can the Kuffaar and sinners ever think that they will receive rewards equal to what the people of Taqwa receive?)

أَمْ لَكُمْ كِتَابٌ فِيهِ تَدْرُسُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾

37. Do (you say that all will be treated equally because) you have a (divine) book with you that you study...

إِنَّ لَكُمْ فِيهِ لَمَا تَخَيَّرُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

38. ...in which there are things mentioned that appeal to you (such as the promise that you will enter Jannah regardless of what you do in the world) ?

أَمْ لَكُمْ أَيْمَانٌ عَلَيْنَا بِالْغَةِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ إِنَّ لَكُمْ لَمَا تَحْكُمُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾

39. Or do (you say this because) you have an oath from Us that will last until Qiyaamah stating that you shall have whatever (rewards and Jannaat) you decide?

سَأْلَهُمْ أَيْمَانُ بِذَلِكَ زَعِيمٌ ﴿٤٠﴾

40. Ask them (the Kuffaar) which of them will stand guarantee for this.

أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ ۖ فَلْيَأْتُوا بِشُرَكَائِهِمْ إِنْ كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ ﴿٤١﴾

41. Or do they have partners (that they ascribe to Allaah who will stand guarantee for this)? **Let them bring their partners if they are truthful.**

يَوْمَ يَكْشِفُ عَنْ سَاقٍ وَيَدْعُونَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾

42. (Do not forget) The day (of Qiyaamah) **when the “shin”** (this mysterious term is among the “Mutashaabihaat”) **will be exposed and** (it will be so magnificent that by seeing it) **people** (the Kuffaar) **will be summoned** (by their emotions) **to prostrate but will be unable to** (because only the true Mu'mineen will be able to prostrate in obedience).

خَاشِعَةً أَبْصَارُهُمْ تَرْهُقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ وَقَدْ كَانُوا يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ وَهُمْ سَلَامُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾

43. (Referring to the Kuffaar, Allaah says,) Their gazes will be cast down (because of embarrassment and fear) **and disgrace shall overcome them. Indeed they used to be summoned to prostrate** (in this world) **when they were hail and healthy** (but they refused to do so. Therefore, in the Akhirah they will be unable to do so also).

فَذَرْنِي وَمَنْ يُكَذِّبُ بِهَذَا الْحَدِيثِ سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُمْ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾

44. So leave Me (to deal) **with the one who rejects this speech** (this Qur'aan). **We shall gradually lead them on** (allow them to continue sinning without punishing them) **in a manner that they do not realise.** (Thinking that punishment will not arrive, the Kuffaar continue sinning, not realising that they are earning for themselves a terrible punishment.)

وَأُمْلِي لَهُمْ إِنَّ كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ ﴿٤٥﴾

45. I am (only) **granting them respite** (temporary relief by not punishing them immediately). **Indeed, My planning is powerful** (they will be unable to escape My plan).

أَمْ سَأَلَهُمْ أَجْرًا فَهُمْ مِنْ مَّغْرَمٍ مُتَّقِلُونَ ﴿٤٦﴾

46. Or are (the Kuffaar rejecting your message, O Rasulullaah ﷺ because they think that) **you** (are) **asking payment from them** (for preaching) **and they feel burdened by a penalty** (and therefore prefer not to listen to your preaching)?

أَمْ عِنْدَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُمُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾

47. Or do they (reject the message of Islaam because they firmly believe that they) **have knowledge of the unseen** (which advises them not to accept the guidance of Rasulullaah ﷺ and), **which they are busy writing** (so that they do not forget it)?

فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تَكُنْ كَصَاحِبِ الْحُوتِ إِذْ نَادَىٰ وَهُوَ مَكْظُومٌ ٤٨

48. So (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) be patient with the decision of your Rabb (to postpone the punishment) and do not be (hasty for the punishment to come to them immediately) like the person of the fish (Yunus عليه السلام) who called (to Allaah for help) as he was suppressing (choking with) his grief (while in the stomach of the fish).

لَوْلَا أَن تَدْرِكُهُ نِعْمَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ لَنُبِذَ بِالْعَرَاءِ وَهُوَ مَذْمُومٌ ٤٩

49. If the grace of his Rabb did not reach him, he would have been cast on to the bare shore (desolate) in a blameworthy condition (without assistance because he left his town prior to Allaah's permission). (However, Allaah shaded him on the shore and provided food for him there.)

فَاجْتَبَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَجَعَلَهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ٥٠

50. His Rabb selected him and made him among the righteous.

وَأَن يَّكَادُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَيُزْلِقُونَكَ بِأَبْصَارِهِمْ لَمَّا سَمِعُوا الذِّكْرَ وَيَقُولُونَ إِنَّهُ لَمَجْنُونٌ ٥١

51. When the Kuffaar hear the Reminder (the Qur'aan), it seems as if they could almost make you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) slip (and harm you) with their gazes (filled with hatred) and they say, "He is certainly insane!"

وَمَا هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ٥٢

52. It (the Qur'aan) is but a Reminder for the universe.